

Application No.: 10/450,676

Docket No.: 22106-00031-US1

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in the application. Claim 14 has been amended by way of the present amendment. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 14-15 were rejected were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,316,742 (Rostron et al.); and claims 1-13 were allowed.

Allowed Claims

First, Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the early indication of allowed claims 1-13. In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 15, which is dependent on allowed claim 1, should then also be allowed.

35 U.S.C. Section 102 Rejections

Claims 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Rostron et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

In an attempt to clarify the invention, claim 14 has been amended. In particular, claim 14 has been amended to recite:

an integrated positive-opening-operation mechanism,
which operatively connects an actuating device to a mobile contact
that can be coupled to/uncoupled from a corresponding fixed
contact, said positive-opening mechanism comprising:

first means for storing an amount of potential energy and
converting said stored potential energy into kinetic energy that is in
turn transmitted to said mobile contact during the movement of
said actuating device; and

*second means for directly transferring to the mobile
contact at least a part of the kinetic energy that is used to actuate
said actuating device (emphasis added).*

Support for the amendment is provided at least at page 10, lines 5-20; and shown at least in FIG. 1 to FIG. 4, of the specification. Therefore, it is respectfully

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submitted that the amendment raises no question of new matter.

Rostron et al. discloses an actuator mechanism that decreases the time needed to move the contacts of a circuit interrupter between a closed circuit position and an open circuit position to reduce the probability of the occurrence of restrikes.¹ In particular, in the device disclosed by Rostron et al., during the movement of the actuating device (i.e., the flywheel 302) an amount of potential energy is stored by an actuator spring (not shown in FIG. 6A, but is reference 318 in FIG. 3) positioned between the spring cap 616 and the end cap 622.²

However, Rostron et al. fails to disclose, as recited in claim 14:

second means for directly transferring to the mobile contact at least a part of the kinetic energy that is used to actuate said actuating device.

That is, Rostron et al. discloses as soon as the actuator mechanism 600 has passed a certain transition point, the potential energy in the actuator spring is converted into kinetic energy, which is in turn *transmitted to the mobile contact via the contact plunger 626*.³ In contrast to the claimed invention, Rostron et al. does not disclose “directly transferring to the mobile contact at least part of the kinetic energy,” as recited in claim 14.

Further, Rostron et al. nowhere discloses mechanisms that *directly transfer* kinetic energy of the flywheel 302 to the mobile contact. Moreover, Rostron et al. discloses the kinetic energy of the actuating device (i.e., the flywheel 302) is merely used to store a certain amount of potential energy and subsequently to convert said stored potential energy into kinetic energy that is transmitted to the mobile contact.

¹ Rostron et al. at ABSTRACT.

² Rostron et al. at column 14, lines 35-68, and column 15, lines 1-5, and figures 6a- 6e.

³ *Id.* at FIG. 6.

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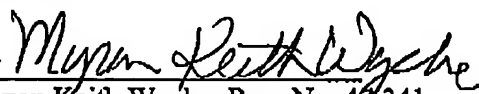
In contrast to Rostron et al., in the claimed invention, the kinetic energy of the actuating device (i.e., the knob 11) is also transferred via an impulse to the mobile contact (e.g., by virtue of the levers 51 and 61 and the pin 511, as shown in the description at page 10 and in Figures 1-4 of the specification. Thus, the "second means for directly transferring to the mobile contact at least a part of the kinetic energy that is used to actuate said actuating device," as recited in amended claim 14, is not disclosed by Rostron et al. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Rostron et al. does not disclose, anticipate or inherently teach all of the limitations of claim 14 and that claim 14, and claims dependent thereon, patentably distinguish thereover.

Conclusions

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. No fee is believed due with this response. However, if there are any fees due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 22106-00054-US1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw for any fees that are due with this response.

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Respectfully submitted,

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